

# ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

To shorten time required to transmit image data from an image server to a client computer.

To shorten, when image data is transmitted from a client computer to a main image server, time required to transmit the image data.

In a system in which an editing server and a lot of client computers are capable of communicating with one another, an edited image can be generated by the plurality of client computers.

When image data is transmitted from the image server to the client computer, the resolution of image data to be transmitted is reduced in correspondence with the resolution of a monitor display device connected to the client computer. Further, the number of colors of an image represented by the image data is decreased in correspondence with the number of colors which can be displayed on the monitor display device. The data quantity of the image data to be transmitted is reduced, so that time required to transmit the image data is shortened.

A client computer and a main image server are connected to each other. A user image to be synthesized on a template image is read in the client computer. Image data representing the template image used for the image synthesis and image data representing a mask image are transmitted

from the main image server to the client computer. In the client computer, image synthesis processing is performed. Image data representing an area required for image synthesis of the user image used for the image synthesis is extracted.

5 The extracted user image data and synthesis information required for the synthesis are transmitted from the client computer to the main image server. In the main image server, a composite image is printed.

10 A lot of client computers and an editing server are connected to one another via an internet. A group is constituted by the plurality of client computers. In the group, one of the client computers generates an edited image, and the other client computer reedits the generated edited image. The process of the editing can be also  
15 confirmed on a display screen by the client computer which does not relate to the editing.